Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4020

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, PI, IR, LY

SUBJ: FOREIGN SECRETARY ON BHUTTO'S MEETING WITH THE SHAH

- 1. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ASKED THAT I CALL TODAY, AND IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIC MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST, GAVE ME BRIEF RUNDOWN ON BHUTTO'S VISIT WITH THE SHAH. HE SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT HE HAD ALL THE DETAILS, AS BHUTTO AND THE SHAH HAD BEEN ALONE TOGETHER FOR SOME 4-1/2 HOURS. HOWEVER, IN ADDITION TO COMMUNIQUE, HE COULD RELAY SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
- 2. SHAHI SAID HE THOUGHT THE TALKS HAD GONE WELL, EVEN THOUGH INITIALLY THE SHAH HAD BEEN "HOT UNDER THE COLLAR" OVER TREATMENT RECEIVED HERE RECENTLY BY QADHAFI OF LIBYA. BHUTTO HAD EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN SOMEWHAT AWKWARD POSITION AS REGARDS PUBLICITY QADHAFI RECEIVED HERE. HE CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID, HOWEVER, THAT QADHAFI WAS REPAYING A STATE VISIT

THAT HE (BHUTTO) MADE TO LIBYA WHILE HE WAS STILL PRESIDENT. AT THAT TIME QADHAFI HAD VILUNTEERED TO LET BHUTTO SPEAK AT A MASS PUBLIC MEETING. HE SAID THAT QADHAFI HAD MADE A SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT THIS COURTESY BE RETURNED IN KIND AND HE HAD NOT FELT HE COULD POINTEDLY TURN HIM DOWN. HE DID ADD, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD MADE NO EFFORT TO ASSEMBLE CROWDS FOR QADHAFI, BUT THIS CAUSED SLIGHT DIMINUTION OF THE CROWD, AS QADHAFI HAD A WAY OF APPEALING TO THE MASSES. BHUTTO SAID HE HAD ALSO. IN VIEW OF PAKISTAN'S NEEDS, HOPED THAT SPECIFIC FINANCIAL OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE OBTAINED BY BEING NICE TO OADHAFI. THE SHAH HAD THEN LET THE MATTER DROP WITH THE REMARK THAT HE DID NOT BLAME BHUTTO FOR THAT - AND IT WOULD BE BETTER ANYWAY IF QADHAFI SPENT HIS MONEY CONSTRUCTIVELY INSTEAD OF THE TYPE OF DESTRUCTIVE THINGS HE IS INCLINED TO FINANCE THTOUGHOUT THE WORLD.

- 3. SHAHI SAID AS IT APPEARED THAT SOME ECONOMIC BENEFITS WOULD ACCRUE TO PAKISTAN AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT. HE WAS SPEAKING PRIMARILY OF REMARKS THAT THE SHAH HAD MADE TO ALL PRESENT IN THE LARGER MEETING THAT FOLLOWED THE PRIVATE TALKS WITH BHUTTO. HE SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT DETAILS ON MOST THINGS STILL HAD TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT THAT THE GENERAL APPROACH SEEMED CLEAR. THE SHAH HAD EXPRESSED HIS OWN DEEP PERSONAL ATTACHMENT TO THE CONCEPT OF RETAINING THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE TIES WITH PAKISTAN. HE SAID HE KNEW THE RISE IN PRICES OF OIL WAS CAUSING PAKISTAN CONSIDERABLE HARDSHIP. HE, THEREFORE, SAID THAT HE WAS WILLING TO MAKE A LOAN AT 2-1/2 PERCENT INTEREST TO PAKISTAN (SHAHI THOUGHT FOR FIVE YEARS) TO OFFSET PAKISTAN'S LOSS DUE TO HIGHER OIL PRICES. THE PERIOD MENTIONED WAS FOR ONE YEAR. BUT I WAS LEFT UNCERTAIN AS TO JUST WHEN THE YEAR STARTED OR WAS SCHEDULED TO START. HE SAID THE SHAH HAD ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN ON SPECIFIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
- 4. ALTHOUGH THE ABOVE IS VERY SKETCHY, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THIS THAT PAKISTAN DID NOT RECEIVE AS FAVORABLE A DEAL ON OIL AS INDIA HAS FROM IRAN. I CANNOT, OF COURSE, KNOW WHETHER BHUTTO EVEN TRIED, AND PERHAPS THE CONVERSATIONS DID NOT EVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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COVER THE QUESTION OF PRICE OF OIL IN THE FUTURE. I WOULD NOT WANT TO CONCLUDE FROM THIS, HOWEVER, THAT THE TALKS DID NOT GO WELL. SHAHI DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS BEING OBVIOUSLY QUITE GOOD, AND STATED HE THOUGHT THE VISIT WAS IMPORTANT TO UP-DATE PAKISTAN-IRANIAN DIALOGUE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. BYROADE

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